Arubus Toda XX

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Website: www.arubatoday.com

Friday, May 22, 2009

Price of a barrel of petroleum today:

US\$ 61.05 +

INSIDE TODAY
WORLD NEWS

CHILD ABUSE



Kevin Flannagan, brother of Mickey Flannagan, victim of child abuse, in Dublin, Ireland, Wednesday, May 20, 2009. Nine years in the making, Wednesday's 2,600-page report sides almost completely with the horrific reports of abuse from former students sent to more than 250 church-run, mostly residential institutions.

See INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SPORTS NEWS

MAGIC MOMENT



Orlando Magic's Rashard Lewis strides after a 3-point shot that gave the Magic the lead in the final minute of Game 1 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals against the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday, May 20, 2009, in Cleveland. Orlando won 107-106.

See Sports Today

SOUL BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL

Soul Music Lovers Enjoy the Official Opening Party

At Mr Jazz by Chucho Valdes

Paseo Herencia -- 2009 SOUL BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL featuring, Jamie Foxx, Robin Thicke, Estelle, Common, Wayne Brady & Etana, opened officially with a dance party at Paseo Herencia's Mr Jazz by Chucho Valdes.

The elegant club entertained party-goers to the wee hours with a welcoming celebration chased by another party the following night.

The classic supper club—think Frank Sinatra and company at the Roseland in NYC, martinis and cigars, dancing cheek to cheek to big band music—is in the midst of a nostalgic revival combined with the latest culinary trends.

Continued on Page 4



Soul Beach Music Festival goers are pictured dancing and having fun at the kick off party of the 2009 event at Mr. Jazz in the Paseo Herencia Mall.

~Photo by Julia Renfro~

You are invited to a & Food Pairing Exhibition

Join the Westin Aruba Resort Wine, Food & Art Festival tonight



PALM BEACH – The annual Aruba Wine, Food & Art Festival in its fifth edition will attract many locals and tourists to the second evening's event in the Grand Ballroom of the resort.

More than 60 wineries from around the world have arrived on the island in honor of the occasion, prepared to offer their delicious chilled wines which will combine with the resort's culinary fireworks.

The Westin's culinary team with Executive Chef Gerard Coste in the lead will set up an exhibition kitchen in the middle of the ballroom serving many specialties, in collaboration with the Aruba Culinary School Students.

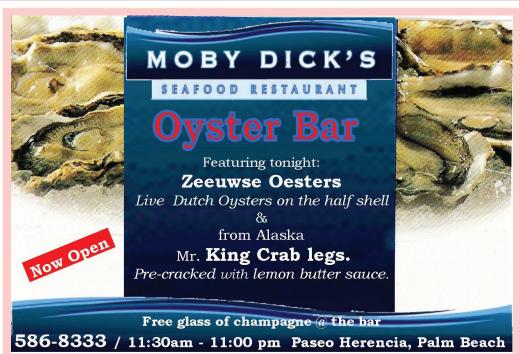
The much-anticipated Wine & Food Pairing Exhibition will



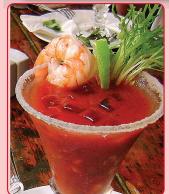
take place from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Music will be provided by Daniel Aguirre's Jazz band.

Continued on Page 10





Free samples of the menu from 6 - 8 pm **Champange & Bloody Oysters** Seafood that will touch your SOUL





Across the street from Holiday Inn

ee Ticket for Morgan's

dinner @



Buy one day at Morgan's Island & get one FREE

Call for us for Take Out and Delivery **BUSHI for Sushi!**

PASEO HERENCIA - Nobushi brings to Aruba the finest sushi. At Nobushi, every single piece gets the love and attention it needs from the professional Sushi chefs. Nobushi Sushi Bar & Asian Cuisine features a variety of sashimi, sushi rolls, chicken, fish and meat entrees that will enlighten your senses.

> Call: 586-2211 or 592-7711 ask your Concierge.

At the Paseo Herencia Mall across from the Holiday Inn





The Earlybird Menu

Served between 4 pm & 6.30 pm

Mixed Salad or Ceasar Salad Catch of the day Filet Mignon Fettuccini Alfredo Chicken Breast

Soup of the day

Hot chocolate fudge Sunday

All main courses are served with potatoes au Gratin & fresh vegetables The early bird menu is priced at \$ 21.75 Service charge not included. For reservations call 586-3659



Tico & Hector will play Spanish music for you! Head downtown to Casa Tua Barcelona for Lunch & Dinner

ORANJESTAD downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its inand outside seating.

A new highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! A \$9.95 dish and a 3-course special for \$19.95. All nights of the week Casa Tua Barcelona serves Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you should choose the fabulous Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by the chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

The staff at this popular eatery has set the stand-



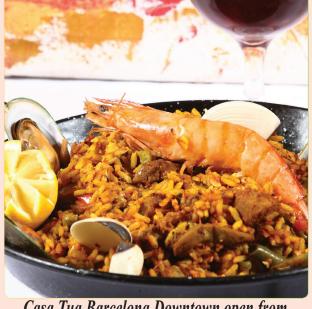
ard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dinning pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with

their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud. The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

This Friday live performance by 'Los Chicos Latinos'; Tico & Hector will play Spanish music for





Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm. For more info or reservations please call or ask your concierge. Please call Downtown: 588 5695





Open daily 8 am - 12am

DJ JEROEN @ BUGALOE LOUNGE & CLUB HOUSE MUSIC

Friday May 22 **5 - 9**pm

J. E. Irausquin Blvd 79 at De Palm Pier • (297) 586 2233 • www.bugaloe.com • info@bugaloe.com





5 year old misses his graduation party, so he celebrates in Aruba

Noah celebrates pre-school graduation in Aruba

EAGLE BEACH – Noah, a little Texas 5 year old boy celebrated his graduation from Pre-School this week at the Turtle's Nest Restaurant at the Costa Linda Resort. Apparently, his school changed the date of his

Graduation Day by one day which was critical for Noah and his family as they'd already made arrangements to vacation in Aruba.

So that Noah wouldn't miss this important celebration, family and friends together with the help of the Celebration on one of the wonderful and creative staff of the Costa Linda Resort, Graduation fantastic

most beautiful beaches in the world.

~ Photo by Julia Renfro ~



Buccaneer Restaurant

Aruba's Legendary Buccaneer Restaurant, serving the freshest fish and seafood from the sea to your to your plate including steaks,

duck, poultry and pasta dishes. Whether you come with the whole family, bring a group of friends, or enjoy for a romantic dinner for two, Buccaneer has the high quality service and fresh, flavorful international dishes that will make your dining experience a memorable reservations email us at info@buccaneeraruba.com or call 586-6172 Monday - Saturady 5:30-10 pm



Ahoy Matey bring this ad in for a free glass of house wine



Aruba TODAY

Soul Music Lovers Enjoy the Official Opening Party



Continued from front Page Aruba's very own Mr. Jazz is taking that all-night entertainment concept further

by also offering a new dining experience.

Guests are invited to cocktails, wines, prime steaks, seafood,



authentic Cuban dishes, and listening and dancing to live jazz between courses, all set to the backdrop that embodies the glamour, romance, and excitement of Havana in its heyday.

Dinner is served until 11:00pm,

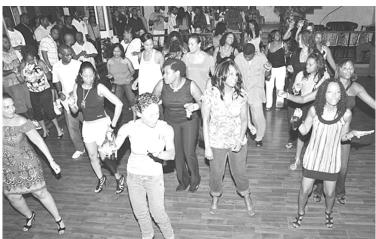


until 3:00am for the late-night

and a full tapas menu is served Pictured here, party snapshot, of a great night out on the town.







Sumptuons 20- Sundowner

Introducing a special early evening menu, served from 5:30pm till 7pm

- Appetizer -

Cream of Assorted Vegetables or Caesar Salad Fried Calamari with Marinara Sauce

- Entrée -

Surf and Turf - Garlic Shrimp (4) with U.S. Prime Cut Steak (5oz) Grilled Certified Angus Beef Shish Kabobs Pan-fried Mahi-Mahi with Mango Salsa

> Chicken Breast Picatta served over Fettuccini

- Dessert -

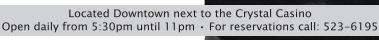
Carrot Cake with Carrot Jelly & Raspberry Sauce Traditional Crème Brulée

Choose two side dishes from our extensive list and one glass of Concha y Toro's Casillero del Diablo per person (Chardonnay or Merlot)

\$79 per comple service charge included

L.G. SMITH'S







Anuba TODAY

Some of the Happiest Hours are at Segafredo

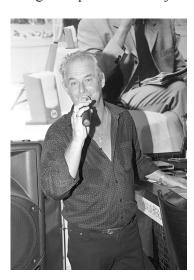






PALM BEACH - Recently Segafredo very quietly opened its doors in the new South Beach Mall, right across from the High Rise Hotels. They have been a raving success from day one, not a surprise to anyone as Segafredo is one of the world's trendiest and recognized coffee brands.

Segafredo is opened from 6AM for the early starters until midnight. You'll find the great specials made just



for you! They will serve you the best Segafredo coffees during the morning to get you going, during lunch you will find fresh panini sandwiches, pizza, lasagna and salads. Night time at Segafredo's promises special coffees, martini's, longdrinks and of course beer on one of the trendiest locations on the island. General Manager Maarten Alberts has trained his staff to utter perfection on how to make the best coffees, and it shows. Served by the most courteous staff on the island, the morning



espressos and cappuccinos are put in front of you with every attention to detail. We invite you to start your day in the best way possible; at Segafredo.

Located in the South Beach Center on Palm Beach near Hard Rock Café. Pictures show Happy Hour guests enjoying 3 hours of fun at last week's Happy Hour.

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



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For more information call +297-586-4466 www.westin.com/aruba E-mail address for packages: westinaruba@westin.com or Ramiro.Rafael@Westin.com

Thursday May 21st, 2009

Taste of Aruba
t lecture in the Gallery, 5 p.m.
Best Chef Competition, 7 p.m.
Special dinner will be served Special dinner will be served at Pago Pago restaurant prepared by Aruba's top chefs from The Westin Resort, Aruba, Papiamento Restaurant, Waterfront Crabhouse, Las Ramblas, The Flying Fishbone, Screaming Eagle, and Aqua Grill.
Each chef will prepare a signature course and pair it with a special wine selection.
An award will be given at the end of the evening to the chef presenting the "People's Choice" dish.

Tickets at \$85 per person are available at the concierge desk. Art exhibition in the gallery featuring local artists.

Friday May 22nd, 2009

Wine & Food Pairing Exhibition, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Exhibition, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Wine Tasting in the Gallery, 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.

The Wine & Food Pairing in the Grand
Ballroom offers an opportunity for exquisite
food & wine tastings with The Westin Culinary
Team, Aruba Culinary School Students and
invited wineries from around the globe. Music
will be provided by Daniel Aguirre's Jazz band
and the special art exhibit will feature the
island's best artists with works available
for viewing and sale.

The Wine & Food Pairing is open to the public and the admission is US\$30 per person at the door.

Pre-sale tickets are available at
the concierge desk for \$25 per person.

Saturday May 23rd, 2009

Meet & Mingle with Aruba's artist community, 5 p.m.
Capturing the Champagne Sparkle,
7 p.m. to midnight
The Final Champagne Event will highlight dinner with South America's most famous chef,
Colombian-born Harry Sasson Tchira,
sponsored by Moet Chandon and
Dom Perignon, matching the chef's east-west
creations with delectable,
bottomless flutes of Champagne.
Concert A Tribute to Frank Sinatra with Edjean,
celebrating 15 years in entertainment.

the concierge desk at US\$140 per person.





\$19.95, All You Can Eat Dinner Buffet

Served daily from 5:00 to 10 p.m (price per person and subject to service charge & tax)

Sundown Special, receive 10% off your meal when seated by 6 p.m. *Kids Eat Free *Kids under age 12, one per paying adult

Monday Seafood Sampler **Tuesday** Bravo Italiano Wednesday An island favorite - BBQ night Saturday Simply Perfect - Prime Rib

Thursday Chateaubriand, Oo-la-la **Friday** International Seafood Festival

LagunaRestaurantAruba.com J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 81, Palm Beach, Radisson.com/Aruba 526.6612 or 526.6613



They're off and smiling!

Polesitters in a good mood with hours and hours of sitting to go



ORANJESTAD - The five polesitters who stepped upon their poles last Thursday morning at 8 am are still smiling and in a great mood. Diana Wolthuis, Fritz Hibbert, Steven Steenhuizen, Hellen Mangroelal and Otmar Cornes

are currently enjoying the attention of their fans and family members as well as the various activities that surround this fifteenth edition of the Aruban Polesitting Championships at Café the Plaza. They are still smiling!



Times are getting tough and money is getting tight so the Que Pasa crew is here to help you start of your weekend well

Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday special prices on drinks between 5 and 7 pm.

Heineken, polar, bright, balashi Premium liquors Superior liquors

Awg: 5, 00

So invite all your friends and colleagues to join the Que Pasa happy hour!!

> Que Pasa? Restaurant~Bar~Art Gallery Wilhelminastraat 18 Oranjestad, Aruba T: (00297)5834888 www.quepasaaruba.com quepasa@setarnet.aw

Diana, Fritz, Steven, Otmar and Hellen have a long way to go: the record stands at 86 hours. That means no sleep and just five minutes per hour off their poles. The sponsoring that the sitters receive makes up for a lot of hardship, as does the thought that part of their earnings go towards the Clown Doctors Foundation of

A fantastic daily raffle with lots of prizes, a raffle to win a week's stay at a luxury vacation home, games and great live music surround the Polesitting event., which has a Kids' Afternoon on Saturday, May 23.

Clown Tio Carlos will be there to entertain all the kids and musical chairs is on the program! Mechanical bull Bonky is alive and kicking as well, so go take this opportunity and go for a ride on this rodeo monster.

We wish the polesitters lots of patience and strength in the coming days. They will need it! Please come and say hello to them at Café the Plaza,





where a 24-hour long party has started. A final word of thanks to the super group of law students at the University

of Aruba: they take care of the monitoring that is required during these four exciting days.





LOCAL A7 Friday, May 22, 2009

Organisers happy about referendum

WILLEMSTAD--"Kranshi" director and vice-chairman of the Main Voting Bureau Harold Daal as well as and the Referendum Committee Curaçao Chairman Douwe Boersema are pleased with the way things went on referendum day.

There were approximately 1,000 persons involved in organising the referendum. Apart from a few incidents, there were no major problems, according to Daal.

Some of the minor problems included a number of polling stations that were not accessible.

The fire brigade had to force school gates, as the keys were not available.

Lt. Governor and Chairlady of the Main Voting Bureau Lisa Dindial did confirm a few complaints from employees who were not given the legal four consecutive hours off to cast their vote. The complaints were filed with the Labour Care Service, which further handled the situation.

Daal said he was proud of everything achieved.

"There were hardly any problematical cases or incidents, apart from a drunken person casting his vote in Jan Sofat. Otherwise, all was peaceful."

This is the second time that Daal was involved with an electoral process as Kranshi director. "Compared to the elections in 2007 when we first used the SmartMatic machines, this referendum went smoother and was less hectic."

Daal remained busy, however. "The job was not finished. The electronic data had to be retrieved from the polling machines and the referendum outcome had to be verified."

The final official outcome will be announced on Wednesday, May 20.

Aruba Parliament member Dirk Dumfries (MEP) observed the referendum on behalf of the regional platform for political parties Copppal. He spoke highly of the organization.

"I congratulate the population and the Government of Curaçao with the referendum: It was democratic and peaceful." During the day Dumfries visited a few polling stations and concluded that all equipment and personnel were in place, all information present and that the voting went according to democratic principles.



'Si' voters celebrated the outcome of the referendum about the future of Curação.

Photo WFA



Aruba_TODAY

HYATT OCCIDENTAL —

RADISSON -

AMSTERDAM MANOR
LA CABANA ———
CHALET SUISSE—

Oasis -

COSTA LINDA

BEACH RESORT

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Eaule Beach to be enriched with an Oasis

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ARUBA

mon area to lounge and relax.

Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclu-

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderfull view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assitst



sive to the owners.

Construction on Oasis at Eagle Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have alsready been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer.

The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

COME VISIT US FOR A PERSONAL TOUR ving fast. been sold. pancy by ch which to the best areas and you for a ch.

EAGLE BEACH - Oasis Luxury Condominiums is a Mediterranean-style designed complex located on the prestigious Eagle Beach right next to Chalet Suisse consisting of a total of 35 units distributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will fea-

ture a beautiful swimming pool

with a beach style entry with

waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting.
The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-storylobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors.

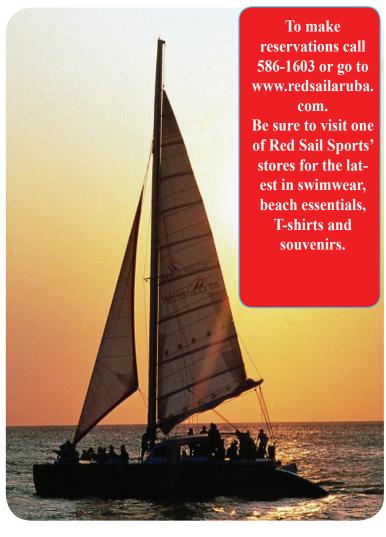
tate the owners with a wellequipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool. The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the com

Every Friday

The Mexican Fiesta Dinner Sail is a must do activity

Experience the fun and excitement of sailing Mexican-style aboard one of Red Sail Sports' luxurious catamarans. The 2-hour sail takes you along Aruba's scenic coastline, while being delighted by live Mariachi Music.

This vibrant unforgettable sail provides a casual Mexican Buffet Dinner and a complimentary bar featuring Coronita beer, Margaritas, and Tequilas. Watch the sun set, the colors of the sky change and the island slowly light up. This is the perfect sail to celebrate the end of a Caribbean day and the start of a fun filled Caribbean night.





rejects boost in sugar aid to ACP coul

An European Union official Wednesday rejected calls to boost aid to former colonies in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) to help restructure their industries.

"I don't think that additional aid is possible, but the (European) Commission is certainly looking at mechanisms to see how we can quickly disburse" funds from existing programs, said Geert Heikens, head of the EU delegation for Guyana, Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles.

The ACP states --African, 16 Caribbean and 15 Pacific former European colonies -- are signatories of the Lome Convention with the European Commission on tariff preferences.

The 1974 Sugar Protocol, which had guaranteed prices much higher than those in the world market and agreed individual quantities, is expected to end in September because the World Trade Organization (WTO) had ruled that the preferential market and pricing regime violates free trade rules.

Heikens spoke at the ACP's 11th special ministerial conference, held the Guyana capital Georgetown, an event that brings together the former colonies, including some of the world's poorest countries.

ACP's ministerial spokesman on sugar, Veyash Satya Faugoo from Mauritius, told the gathering there was a need for greater flexibility and



to provide more resources. more funds to adapt to a 36

for the European parliament percent drop in the price of loss of 200 million euros for up the disbursement of more cane sugar since September, The former colonies need a reduction that delegates say would result in a annual

ACP countries.

European Union to speed between 2007 to 2013.

than 1.2 billion euros to the ACP countries want the 13 sugar producing nations



Mambo Jambo: Oranjestad • Moomba Beach: Palm Beach Muzic Inc.: San Nicholas • SETAR locations Selected Valero Gas Stations • DePalm Tour Desks at Major Hotels Soul Beach Amphitheater Box Office - 1 hour before showtim

Ticket Costs

(service charges may apply) 3 Night Concert Ticket Package: \$180 (USD) Single Concert Ticket: \$65 (USD)



Wednesday, May 20

Opening Party - Welcoming Celebration 10p-3a, Mr. Jazz by Chucho Valdes Paseo Herencia, L.G. Smith Blvd 382-A 2nd Floor, Palm Beach

Thursday, May 21

Live Radio Remote Broadcasts

KJLH – The Guy Black Show 9a-1p, Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa, J.E. Irausquin Blvd No.81, Palm Beach WHUR - The Mid Day with Triscina Grey 10a-3p, MooMba Beach, J E Irausquin Blvd 230. Palm Beach

The Doug & DeDe Show 3-7p- Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino L.G. Smith Boulevard 82, Oranjestad

Soul Beach Daytime Event 10a - 3p, Aruba SMS Competition Showdown MooMba Beach Bar & Restaurant, J E Irausquin Blvd 230, Palm Beach Soul Beach Happy Hour 5-7p, The Village at Palm Beach, Chino Latino Adiacent - J.E. Irausquin Blvd.

Nightclub Party 10p-2a, Hard Rock Cafe Aruba, (Also has NBA Playoff screenings), South Beach Building Loc. 33, Palm Beach

Friday, May 22

Live Radio Remote Broadcasts

KJLH – The Guy Black Show 9a-1p, Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa, J.E. Irausquin Blvd No.81, Palm Beach WHUR – The Mid Day with Triscina Grey 10a-3p, MooMba Beach, J E Irausquin Blvd 230, Palm Beach

The Doug & DeDe Show – Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino 3-7p L.G. Smith Boulevard 82, Oranjestad

Jamie Foxx Sirius Radio - Radisson 5-7p, Radisson Aruba Resort. Casino & Spa, J.E. Irausquin Blvd No.81, Palm Beach

Soul Beach Daytime Event 10a - 3:p, Aruba Band SMS Competition Showdown, MooMba Beach Bar & Restaurant, J E Irausquin Blvd 230, Palm Beach

Main Stage Music Concert 7p-11p

Soul Beach Amphitheater, Adjacent to Havana Beach Club, Oranjestad, Featuring: Aruba Band SMS Competition Winner, Estelle • Wayne Brady Nightclub Parties 11p-4a, Havana Beach Club, L.G. Smith Blvd 1, Oranjestad

Saturday, May 23

Motorcraft Beach Party Event 10a-3p, MooMba Beach Bar & Restaurant, J.E. Irausquin Blvd 230, Palm Beach

Main Stage Music Concert 7p-11p

Soul Beach Amphitheater, Adjacent to Havana Beach Club, Oranjestad Featuring: Hildward Croes • Etana • Jamie Foxx

Nightclub Parties 11p-4a, Havana Beach Club, L.G. Smith Blvd 1, Oranjestad

Sunday, May 24

Black Planet Beach Party 10a-3p, MooMba Beach Bar & Restaurant J E Irausquin Blvd 230, Palm Beach

Main Stage Concert 7p – 11p

Soul Beach Amphitheater, Adjacent to Havana Beach Club, Oranjestad, Featuring: Soul Beach Music Search Winner -

Abby Dobson • Common • Robin Thicke

Nightclub Parties 11p – 4a, Havana Beach Club, L.G. Smith Blvd 1, Oranjestad

Monday, May 25

Soul Beach Cool Down Party 10p-3a, Mr. Jazz by Chucho Valdes, Paseo Herencia, L.G. Smith Blvd 382-A 2nd Floor, Palm Beach



Aruba_TODAY

Join the Westin Aruba Resort Wine, Food & Art Festival tonight











Continued from Front Page
The Wine & Food Pairing is open to the public and the admission is US\$30 per person at the door. Pre-sale tickets are available at the concierge desk for \$25 per person.

As part of the festival activities today, a Trade Fair is being organized by local and international Wine and Liquor Purveyors, designed to inform and entertain their





local clients, by-invitations only. Sessions will take place from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Pictured here happy patrons attending the Wine, Food & Art Festival 2008.





ADVERTISEMENT A11 Friday, May 22, 2009

WIN AT CRYSTAL & SEAPORT CASINOS



AMIR **MACHMUD** May 15th, 2009

> Mystery Bonus Jackpot: FORD MUSTANG

casino: **CRYSTAL CASINO**



SIGFRIED FRASER March 25th, 2009

> Mystery Bonus Jackpot: FORD MUSTANG

casino: **CRYSTAL CASINO**





MARIA HELDER-WERLEMAN January 1st, 2009



Mystery Bonus Jackpot: SUZUKI SWIFT

SEAPORT CASINO



JACINTHA KOCK LOEFSTOK January 11th, 2009



Mystery Bonus Jackpot: FORD MUSTANG

casino:
CRYSTAL CASINO



FISHBEYN January 15th, 2009



Mystery Bonus Jackpot: FORD MUSTANG

casino:
CRYSTAL CASINO



PREMEHANDERPERSAD NAIDJNATH

MISIER February 21st, 2009



Mystery Bonus Jackpot: SUZUKI SWIFT

casino: **SEAPORT CASINO**



LORENZO PADULLA February 21st, 2009



Mystery Bonus Jackpot: FORD MUSTANG

CRYSTAL CASINO



February 22st, 2009



Mystery Bonus Jackpot: SUZUKI SWIFT

SEAPORT CASINO

ONLY POSSIBLE AT

CRYSTAL & SEAPORT CASINOS!

Aruba_TODAY

Jamie Foxx

Biography

"Ray Charles told me, 'If you recent feel it, then you know it's accomp right," says Jamie Foxx. to wir

"He taught me how to feel." The release of Foxx's longawaited J Records debut, UNPREDICTABLE, demonstrates the lessons the Oscar-winner learned at the feet of one of music's true giants. With a wide range of sounds and emotions, and a breathtaking list of guest stars adding to the mix, the one-time music student at San Diego's United States International University finally fulfills his true dream. From the party-starting first single "Unpredictable" to the smoldering "Love Changes," UNPREDICTABLE reveals an artist ready

to play in R&B's big leagues. Of course, Foxx's musical skills are no secret — the album follows his appearance on Kanye West's #1 single "Gold Digger," which reprised the magic of their collaboration on last year's Grammy-nominated smash "Slow Jamz."

That hit was just one taste of Jamie Foxx's

unprecedented accomplishments. In addition to winning the 2005 Oscar Academy Award as Best Actor for his career-defining performance in Ray, he was nominated in the Best Supporting Actor category for his part in Collateral, making him just the second male actor with nominations for two different films in the same year. Those roles, in conjunction with his acclaimed turn in the FX Networks' Redemption, led to him being the first person ever nominated for three acting awards at the Golden Globes and four SAG awards in one year.

But Foxx, 37, is quick to point out that music isn't just a sideline to his history-making acting career.

"I've been working on music for the last 15 years," he says. "I don't do nothing sideways. If I'm gonna get it, I'm gonna get it 100 percent." He did much of the work on UNPREDICTABLE at his own home studio, and even on the set of his current production, Miami Vice, he's been logging hours in a portable studio lent

to him by super producer Timbaland (who manned the boards on the album's "Can I Take You Home").

In fact, Foxx says that the success and notoriety he's enjoyed since his breakthrough performance in 1999's Any Given Sunday is sometimes held against him when he focuses on a different medium

"I've been told many times, 'I know what you did on the acting side and the Oscars and all that, but that doesn't mean anything on the music side!," he says. "And that's completely wrong, because the medium of television has bashed that in the head. Music is visual now, as well."

To convince the skeptics, he says, "I had to make sure that the album was tight even if I didn't have anybody to enhance it."

But in the end, Foxx was also able to assemble a lineup of guests that reads like a Billboard Top Ten chart— Mary J. Blige, Ludacris, and Twista all add their flavors to UNPREDICTABLE, with



production by Timbaland, Babyface and others.

Foxx says that these collaborations all came together naturally. "Those are my friends," he says. "These are people I've formed relationships with over the years, thrown parties for, hung out with."

The Texas-born former star of In Living Color and The Jamie Foxx Show notes that these artists all share a drive and passion he was able to relate to and learn from. "They're all going to be legends,"he says. "They want to win-not just for the monetary thing, but for the soul and the spirit. That history does something fantastic to your body and your soul. If it feels that good in the studio, when it gets out there with that Clive Davis presentation, man, people are in trouble!"

Hooking up with Clive Davis—Chairman & CEO, BMG, US, and the music legend behind superstars from Janis Joplin to Santana to Alicia Kevs—was part of Foxx's vision for his music career. In 2005, he engineered a performance at Davis's famous pre-Grammy party at the Beverly Hills Hotel, as a way to showcase his talent directly to the top. "I'd been to the Clive Davis party before," he says, "and I was like, I know how it is, it's high ground up in here, you got to come in legendary already. So I used a little of my comedy to break the ice, and then slipped my singing in on them before they even knew what was happening." A performance of "Slow Jamz" alongside Kanye West and Twista led to an impromptu sing-off with Alicia Keys and Angie Stone. By evening's end, Davis was a believer and, says Foxx, "I knew I had performed in the right place for the right people at the right time."

True to the album's title, Foxx points to a few songs on UNPREDICTABLE as the most surprising, and thus the ones he's proudest of. "There's a song called 'I Wish You Were Here, 'about my grandmother," he says. "It's a heavy, heavy song — we put it at the end of the album, because I want people to bump and grind and enjoy themselves before they get to that. That's the one that measures your soul." The track "Til I Met Your Sister," he says, presents a new perspective on a slippery situation. "It's about a guy having this infidelity with his girl's sister," says Foxx, "but nobody ever has sung about that in a way where it's not embarrassing, it's not jokey, it's really serious—like, we really did click and there's no way I can fight it."

So did he feel any pressure in following Ray? Was it hard to find the motivation to be creative after giving the performance of a lifetime? Foxx waves off such concerns. "If you go to the mountaintop," he says, "and you hit the very top, even if you go down a hundred feet, you're still on that mountain, and you can still see a whole lot of things. We got a lot of things we passed up 'cause we were on our way to the top. Now we're gonna go down and maybe set up camp, have a barbecue down here, have a little party over there. That's what we're doing now.

"We just didn't let the curtain go down," says Jamie Foxx with a laugh.

"We're at the after party right now."





Etana

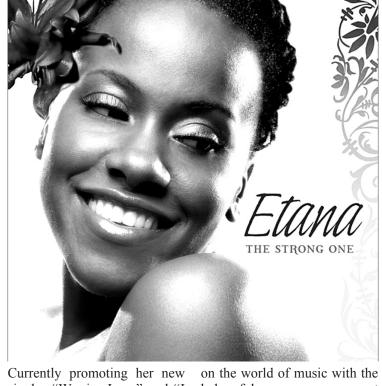
Biography

Arguably the most prolific female vocalist in present day Reggae singer/ songwriter Etana has struck a cord with the masses and like any beautiful melody she's winning the hearts of the people one song at a time. Spirited in her approach to communicate unfitting and inspirational messages to the youth she's been described by critics as the truth, one who will bring about real change with her powerful and captivating voice that at times seem flawlessly pure. Rebellious in her approach to denote systematic oppression against all races Etana takes pride in being an artist, she feels strongly that her responsibility as a recording artist is to express positive vibrations in her music and from this she will graceful admit to staying the course. Born Shauna McKenzie Etana spent her youthful days playing in the hill side community of August Town situated in the South Eastern side of Jamaica. The only daughter of a fairly large family of boys she was as curious then as she is determined now doing the mischievous things most children tend to do at an early age. Attending school locally up until 1992 when she migrated to the U.S to start a new life in the sunshine state of Miami Florida Etana was a budding achiever; she finished grade school and eventually went off to college the year after with plans of becoming a Registered Nurse. During her studies at Broward Community College Etana became extremely passionate about music, she was consumed with the joy of creating her own mix of the different genres she would attentively listen to in her earlier years. A hardened fan of Reggae, Pop, Hip Hop and Jazz Musicians she found inspiration in Whitney Houston, Lauren Hill, Jill Scott, Sizzla Kalongi, Marcia Griffiths and the legend Bob Marley all of who eventually gave the then academic the will to explore a new and potentially more suited career in Music. In 2000 after making a tuff decision to prematurely exit college Etana attempted a shot at stardom when she joined a girl group by the name "GIFT" which was being courted by Universal Records. Sexy, Reviling and conforming to the industry stereo type of how a woman should dress Etana fell victim to her dreams of becoming a mainstream star. It wasn't her ideal fit but

she conformed to the record labels requests and gave in to her groups glamorous appeal until one day while on a video shoot for their lead single she could bear it no more walking away from the spotlights and returning to her place of birth Kingston, Jamaica to start fresh as an entrepreneur looking to grab a piece of the Cyber Market with an Internet Cafe. Down but not out Etana still wanted to do music but only in her own way, she wanted to send a different message and portray a more eloquent look and this opportunity came in 2005 when a friend brought her to Fifth Element who at the time was prospering from the strength of Richie Spice who was heavily booked for several American and European Tours. Auditioning for a shot at becoming the backup vocalist for Spice Etana vocally floored his management team and was handed a plane ticket to do a few shows in the U.S. The ensuing fifteen months followed with the now permanent songstress soaking up valued experience as a stage performer with performance credits in Europe and North America. Eager to make her own mark Etana boldly attempted a hit single one day while chilling with the guitar player and Percussionist from Richie Spice's band. The idea had been floating in her thoughts for weeks and like magic the melody for her debut smash single "Wrong Address" was born. Simple yet effective the single was a fusion of Jazz and Reggae, it was the first of its kind and in 2006 the song was rewarded with heavy radio rotations plunging it in the number 1 position of several local charts.

Describing her style back then Etana was quoted as saying "I do music straight from the heart, straight from the soul, straight from the people i see in everyday life" and so came about her second major hit Roots which was an intriguing mix of African and reggae cultural sounds fused with Jamaican Creole. The song became an anthem because of the definitive statement "You can't water down and dilute" featured in the chorus. Video's for both songs helped bring Etana to the forefront of Reggae and during the summer and winter of 2007 she made her mark as a solo artist performing

on international events like Sumfest, Fully Reggae Loaded, ATI Live Concert, Irie Jamboree, Welcome to Jamrock and Guinness Sting. Picking up where she left off in 2007 Etana began 2008 with the same level of focus rocking the likes of an Air Jamaica Jazz & Blues Festival in late January so much so that patrons lashed the promoters for putting her on too early. A few well deserved awards in the bag Etana took home Best Female Vocalist at both the Excellence in Music & Entertainment (EME) Awards and the IRIE FM Radio Awards not to mention an award for Best Solo Female Reggae Vocalist copped at the 1st annual Reggae Academy Awards for which she had nominations in 3 separate categories.



LOCAL A13 Friday, May 22, 2009

Currently promoting her new singles "Warrior Love" and "I Am Not Afraid" off her soon to be released debut album ETANA THE STRONG ONE on VP Records Etana is boldly taking

on the world of music with the help of her new management team at Solid Agency. Owner of Free Mind Music / The Best Records Etana is poised to do Reggae proud.



4rubu TODAY

MMUI

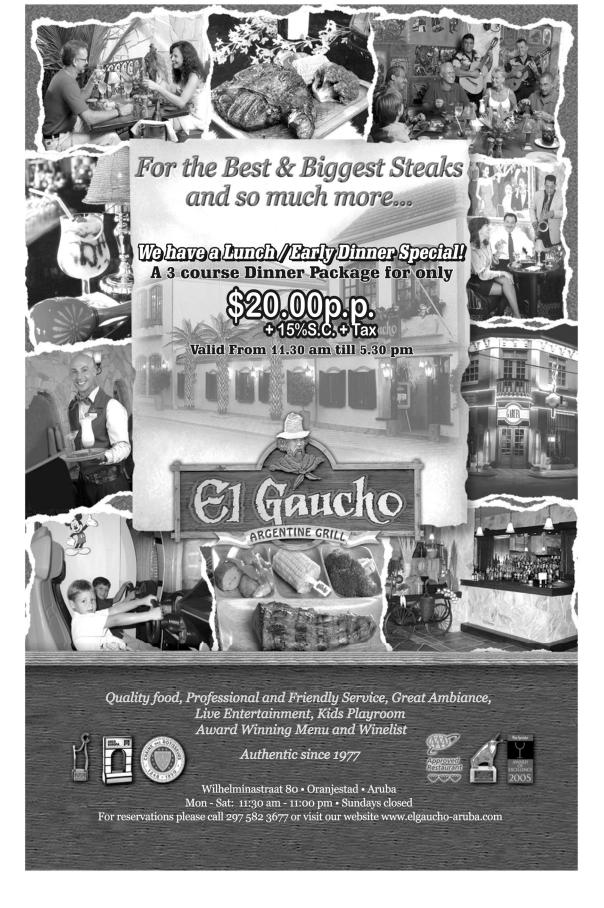
Common knows what you're empowerment thinking. After the crossover success of Be and Finding Forever, you expect the king of conscious hip-hop to serve you another set of introspective rhymes over raw soul tracks by Kanye West.

But Common hasn't lasted 16 years in the notoriously fickle hip-hop game by avoiding risk. With seven albums, two Grammy's, five major films, three children's books, a youth

foundation, a Gap commercial, and a designer hat line under his belt, this Renaissance Man is all about pushing boundaries and winning while he's at it.

Due out on December 9, Universal Mind Control is a powerful testament to Common's fearlessness. Inspired by the 24-hour party scenes of Prague and Barcelona, the MC teamed up with The Neptunes and OutKast affiliate Mr. DJ to create a body rockin' blend of hardcore hip-hop, retro electro, sinister funk and sticky sweet soul.

"I have long been an artist whose songs don't get played at the parties. People would say they liked and respected my music but they wouldn't celebrate to it," explains the Chi-Town b-boy born Lonnie Rashid Lynn, Jr. "With Universal Mind Control, I'm





commanding people to dance and get loose. The subject matter I address isn't as serious. It's just me flirting with women, saying little clever stuff, and talking about how I'm the gladiator of hiphop. These are some of the most spontaneous, fun songs I've ever done."

The rapper/actor finished recording Universal Mind Control after wrapping Street Kings, touring Europe and filming Terminator: Salvation opposite Christian Bale. The breakneck schedule, he says, feeds his artistry. "Having so many things to do makes music more fun because it frees me from overthinking. I don't beat myself over the head because I don't have all of my eggs in one basket."

Universal Mind Control reflects Common's newfound freedom where he was able to create a body of work that represents the future of hip hop. Highlights include the Afrika Bambaataa-inspired, Neptunes-produced title track, which was featured on ABC's

Dancing With the Stars; "Make My Day," a breezy Mr. DJ production with Cee-Lo Green on the hook; "Punk Drunk Love," a player's anthem featuring Kanye West, and "Gladiator," a Navigator rattler sure to satisfy hip-hop purists and critics alike.

In 2009, Common will launch a film production company, work on his fourth children's book, and continue to inspire Chicago youth with his Common Ground Foundation. And of course he'll honor the spirit of real hip-hop through his energetic live shows, innovative videos and his fresh new album.

"I've always been passionate about what I do, whether it's rapping, acting, writing, break dancing, or whatever it is," says Common. "I put my heart into Universal Mind Control, and I think it'll reach audiences I've never touched before. This music has a progressive, international spirit to it, but it's still very much hip-hop. It'll take you to a new place, but it's still Common."





"Aruhiba" Aruba's homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called 'Aruhiba'. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of 'Aruhiba" cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo 'Aruhiba' and 'Made in Aruba'. Petrochi considers 'Aruhiba' a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

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Aruba_TODAY

MooMba Beach invites Festival Goers to have fun in the sun...





MOOMBA - Yesterday, Soul Beach Music Festival fans celebrated the opening of this years event on the beach at the popular MooMba Beach Bar and Restaurant. Everyone had a great day of fun in the sun. The popular music festival fly's into Aruba (May 20-25) for the most electrifying music event of the year! The Soul Beach Music Festival kicks off Memorial Day weekend in the sun kissed paradise of Aruba. The festival features concerts by some of today's hottest music artists from 7-11pm nightly on











the Soul Beach Amphitheater's (adjacent to Club Havana) main stage.

Friday night on the main stage, London's hottest new artist Estelle performs. On the main stage Saturday night is the one and only Jamie Foxx. Sunday night's concert series features the lyrical stylings of Common and the blue eyed soul of Robin Thicke. In addition to the headliners, the festival also showcases great local artists such as Etana. The Soul Beach Music Festival is five days of power packed music and











events. In addition to the nightly concerts, festival patrons can also enjoy beach parties and the popular Aruba nightclub scene.

~ Photo by Julia Renfro ~





On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Friday, May 22, 2009



David Williams also known as Daoud is led by police officers from a federal building in New York, early Thursday, May 21, 2009, after being arrested on charges related to a bombing plot in the Bronx.

Associated Press

NYC terror case latest of many homegrown plots

JIM FITZGERALD

Associated Press Writers

NEWBURGH, New York (AP) — The four men were ex-convicts who envisioned themselves as holy warriors, ambitious enough to concoct a plot to blow up synagogues and military planes, authorities said.

But they were amateurs every step of the way. They had trouble finding guns and bought cameras at Wal-Mart to photograph their targets. One was a convicted purse snatcher, another smoked marijuana the day the plot was to be carried out.

Muslims fueled by hatred of America and Jews, they spent months scouting targets and securing what they thought was a surface-to-air missile system and powerful explosives — all under the watch of an FBI informant.

The four were arrested late Wednesday outside a synagogue in the Bronx, following a long line of homegrown, headline-making terror plots since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 that never came close to reality because the FBI inserted itself in the earliest stages.

The bombs they planted outside two synagogues Wednesday were useless, packed with inert explosives supplied by the FBI instead of the Pakistani terrorist group they had pledged to support, according to a criminal complaint.

Still, officials see the case as a vivid reminder of risks the U.S. faces from homegrown

terrorists.

"It's hard to envision a more chilling plot," assistant U.S. attorney Eric Snyder said. "These are extremely violent men."

James Cromitie, David Williams, Onta Williams and Laguerre Payen were calm as they appeared in court Thursday with their hands shackled, to answer charges of conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction within the United States and conspiracy to acquire and use anti-aircraft missiles. They did not enter pleas and were held without bail; they face life in prison if convicted.

Besides destroying the two synagogues in the heavily Jewish Riverdale section of the Bronx, they intended to shoot down planes at the Air National Guard base in Newburgh, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of New York City, prosecutors said.

Relatives said the defendants were down-ontheir-luck men who worked at places like Wal-Mart, a landscaping company and a warehouse when they weren't behind bars. Payen's lawyer said he was "intellectually challenged" and on medication for schizophrenia. Marilyn Reader said he has "a very low borderline" IQ.

David Williams' relatives said they were shocked by the allegations against a man they knew as a good father to his 7-year-old daughter and newborn son.

Continued on Pag B5

Obama fights to take command of Guantanamo Bay debate



Standing in front of the Constitution, President Barack Obama delivers an address on national security, terrorism, and the closing of Guantanamo Bay prison, Thursday, May 21, 2009, at the National Archives in Washington.

Associated Press

JENNIFER LOVEN

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama fought Thursday to retake command of the emotional debate over closing Guantanamo, denouncing "fear-mongering" by political opponents and insisting that maximum-security prisons in the U.S. can safely house dangerous terror suspects.

Continued on Next Page



Schoolchildren wearing protective masks as a precaution against swine flu, walk together at a train station in Kawasaki, west of Tokyo, Thursday, May 21, 2009. As the first cases of swine flu were confirmed in Japan's capital, the government on Thursday braced for further outbreaks in the country, shifting medical resources away from airports and into cities.

Associated Press

WHO: Japan, San Marino top life-expectancy list

FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press Writer

GENEVA (AP) — Girls born in Japan today are likely to live until the year 2095, some with a good chance of seeing the dawn of the next century thanks to the world's longest life expectancy.

Continued on Page B9

Friday, May 22, 2009 UP FRONT





Former Vice President Dick Cheney speaks at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, Thursday, May 21, 2009.

GUANTANAMO BAY Continued from Page B1

In a unique bit of Washington theater, former Vice President Dick Cheney delivered his own address just one minute later, defending the Bush administration's creation of the prison camp at the U.S. Naval base in Cuba as vigorously as Obama denounced it.

Associated Press
Obama, appearing at the
National Archives with its
immensely symbolic backdrop
of the nation's founding
documents, said shutting down
Guantanamo would "enlist
our values" to make America
safer. Speaking a day after an
overwhelming congressional
rebuke to his pledge to close
the prison, he forcefully

declared the camp a hindrance — not a help — to preventing future terrorist attacks. He contends that the prison, which has held hundreds of detainees for years without charges or trials, motivates U.S. enemies overseas.

The president promised to work with lawmakers to develop "an appropriate legal regime" for those who can't be tried and are too dangerous to be released. Still, he did not provide the level of detail about his plans that lawmakers, including Democrats, demanded in a 90-6 Senate vote denying money for the shutdown on Wednesday.

Cheney, in his own speech, denounced some of Obama's actions since taking office as "unwise in the extreme" and "recklessness cloaked in righteousness," repeating

his contention from a series of headline-grabbing appearances recently that the new president is endangering the country by turning aside Bush-era policies. The former vice president, a primary architect of the Bush approach, accused Obama of looking for "a political strategy, not a national security strategy."

However, neither Cheney nor Obama brought significant new information to bear on the debate that has roiled Washington for weeks. Instead, each presented what amounted to lengthy — and dueling — summations of entrenched positions. Reaction afterward followed well-tilled ground as well, with no sign that Obama was winning the votes he will need to close the prison.

As Obama has made one decision after another on Bush-era terror-fighting tools, liberals have expressed dismay at what they view as a Democratic president acting much like his Republican predecessor.

They cite Obama's moves to reverse himself and fight court-ordered release prisoner-abuse photos, to revive military tribunals for some terror suspects (although he is revamping how they would work), to oppose a truth commission to investigate past detainee treatment and to continue using in some cases Bush's "state secrets" doctrine that claims unchecked presidential power to prevent information disclosure in court.

In his speech, Obama backed down from none of these positions, and defended them all. Human rights and civil liberties groups, given a personal preview of the speech by the president a day earlier, were not assuaged.

"The president himself in the Constitution and then proceeded to violate it," said Michael Ratner, president of the Center for Constitutional Rights, a human rights group. On the other side, Obama has invited conservative criticism for banning harsh "enhanced" methods of interrogating terrorist suspects, for releasing memosdetailingthetechniques and the Bush administration's legal justification for them, and for promising to close the Guantanamo Bay facility by

next January.

Shutting down the Caribbean island prison, which has left the U.S. open to global condemnation since its inception and still holds 240 prisoners, is the most fraught — both logistically and politically.

Obama wants to release some of the prisoners to their home countries, send some who can't be let go to other nations for detention, and try some either through military tribunals or in regular federal courts. He called a fifth category, an unspecified number who can neither be tried nor released, "the toughest issue we will face."

Actually, each category poses significant problems.

Abroad, U.S. officials are having very minimal success persuading allies to take those deemed suitable for release, some 50 of the 240 by Obama's count.

At home, politicians from both parties are balking at the idea of terror suspects — either those convicted in a judicial proceeding or those to be held indefinitely — being housed in their communities.

This has handed Republicans a rare point-scoring opportunity. They were even helped this week when FBI Director Robert Mueller said it would be risky to relocate Guantanamo prisoners to U.S. facilities. As a result, both the House and Senate now are on record against Obama's request for \$81 million to close Guantanamo without a detailed accounting of where the detainees will go.

The White House announced Thursday's speech last week shortly after news surfaced that Cheney was planning his. Aides scheduled it for the hour just before the former vice president's planned appearance at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think thank.

The aim was to rebut Cheney's campaign with all the power of the presidency — not only Obama's singular rhetorical skills but also the ability of any White House to apply nearly unlimited resources to event-staging.

But it also had the effect of elevating Cheney to equal billing in television shows, Webcasts and newspapers.





U.S. NEWS | B3 | Friday, May 22, 2009 | Ex-soldier spared death sentence for Iraq murders

BRETT BARROUOUERE Associated Press Writer

PADUCAH, Kentucky (AP) — An ex-soldier convicted of raping and killing an Iraqi teen and murdering her family was spared the death penalty Thursday and will serve a life sentence after jurors couldn't agree unanimously on a punishment for a brutal crime that the defense blamed partly on combat stress and a lack of military leadership.

After an afternoon of card playing, sex talk and drinking Iraqi whiskey, Pfc. Steven Dale Green, 24, and three other soldiers in March 2006 went to the home of 14-yearold Abeer Qassim al-Janabi near Mahmoudiya, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of Baghdad. Green shot and killed the teen's mother, father and sister, then became the third soldier to rape the girl before shooting her in the face.

Federal jurors who convicted Green of rape and murder on May 7 told the judge they couldn't agree on the appropriate sentence after deliberating for more than 10 hours over two days. Their choices were a death sentence or life in prison without parole. Since they could not unanimously agree on either sentence, life in prison had to be the verdict. Green's father, John, and brother, Doug, sighed as the verdict was read.

"It's the better of two bad choices," said John Green. His son will be sentenced Sept. 4 by U.S. District Judge Thomas B. Russell.

Green's attorneys never denied Green's involvement in the attack, instead focusing on building a case that he didn't deserve the death They presented penalty. former Marines and other soldiers with whom Green served who testified that he



combat tour in Iraq in a unit that suffered heavy casualties and didn't receive sufficient Army leadership while serving in Iraq's "Triangle of Death."

Enemy attacks killed two command sergeants, lieutenant and a specialist in Green's unit over 12 days in December 2005. Jurors also were told that Green's unit was left alone to run a traffic checkpoint for several weeks without a break.

The other soldiers who attacked the family are serving lengthy sentences in military prison, but will be eligible for parole. They testified against Green, who was tried in federal court as a civilian because he had been discharged from the Army before his arrest.

One of Green's attorneys, Darren Wolff, said his client twice offered to plead guilty, but the U.S. Justice Department refused amid international pressure for a conviction.

faced an unusually stressful rest of his life in jail and the events of March 12, 2006, have forever changed the lives of many," Wolff said. "It is a tragic case on so many levels."

> Jurors heard testimony from an Army nurse practitioner who saw Green for combat stress, 11 days after two sergeants were killed by an insurgent.

Green told the nurse that he wanted to kill Iraqi civilians and he found the mission "pointless," using an expletive. He was given medicine to help him sleep and he returned to his unit less than three months before the attack

Throughout the trial, defense attorneys sought to paint a picture of the "Triangle of Death" as the most dangerous area of the most dangerous country on Earth — and a place where Green and his fellow soldiers served without adequate leadership. The trial was held in western Kentucky because Green was a member of the 101st "Mr. Green will spend the Airborne Division, based at



US marshals take former 101st Airborne Division Pfc. Steven Dale Green of Midland, Texas, out the back of the court building after Green got life in prison Thursday May 21, 2009 in Paducah, Ky. Green who was convicted of raping and killing an Iraqi teen and murdering her family was spared the death penalty Thursday and will serve a life sentence after jurors couldn't agree unanimously on a punishment.

Associated Press

the Tennessee border.

Doug Green, 26, said the jury reached the appropriate decision.

Fort Campbell, Kentucky, on "I do think it gives him a chance to have some semblance of a life," Doug Green said. "We're grateful for that."









Friday, May 22, 2009 POLITICS



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Cpl. Jerrod Nichols, left, and Lance Cpl. Kristofer Katzenberger eat pizza before deployment Monday, May 18, 2009 at Camp Lejeune, in Jacksonville, N.C. The main body of 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment will deploy to Afghanistan to conduct counterinsurgency operations in partnership with Afghan National Security Forces.

ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Thursday passed a \$91.3 billion military spending bill, shorn of money President Barack Obama wants to close the Guantanamo Bay prison but allowing him to significantly ramp up the U.S. war in Afghanistan.

The Senate voted 86-3 to pass the bill, which provides money for military and diplomatic operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, setting up House-Senate talks on a compromise measure to present to Obama next month.

Associated Press

The spending measure closely tracks Obama's request for war funds, although the \$80 million he was seeking to close the U.S. naval prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was dropped Wednesday.

A three-day Senate debate on the bill featured little of the angst over the situation in Afghanistan that permeated debate in the House last week on companion legislation.

Obama is sending more than 20,000 additional troops there and, for the first time next year, the annual cost of the war in Afghanistan is projected to exceed the cost

Senate passes \$91.3 billion war funding bill

of fighting in Iraq.

With support forces, the number of U.S. forces in Afghanistan is expected to be about 68,000 by the end of the year — more than double the size of the U.S. force at the end of 2008.

Among the few cautionary voices was Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer.

want to give this administration resources it needs successfully end these wars," Boxer said. "I don't support an open-ended commitment of American troops to Afghanistan. And if we do not see measurable progress, we reconsider our engagement and strategy there."

Debate pretty much fizzled after Democrats retreated and moved to delete from the bill money to close Guantanamo, where about 240 terrorism suspects still are held. The companion House bill had already taken that step.

The underlying war funding measure has gotten relatively little attention, even though it would boost total approved spending for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars above \$900 billion.

The Pentagon would receive \$73 billion under the legislation, including \$4.6 billion to train and equip Afghan and Iraqi security forces; \$400 million to train and equip Pakistan's security forces, and \$21.9 billion to procure new mineresistant vehicles, aircraft, weapons and ammunition, among other items.

The House version adds \$11.8 billion to Obama's request, including almost \$4 billion for new weapons and military equipment such as eight C-17 cargo planes, mine-resistant vehicles, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and Stryker armored The vehicles. House measure also adds \$2.2 billion to Obama's request for foreign aid,

much of which appears to be designed to get around spending limits for 2010.

Aruba IODAY

The Senate measure contains less for weapons procurement and foreign aid, setting up potentially nettlesome negotiations.

In the end, several Senate amendments were added, including one to block the release under the Freedom of Information of government photographs showing the abuse of detainees. The administration is fighting the American Civil Liberties Union in federal court over the release of the photos, and the move was intended to bolster the government's legal position.

Republican Sen. Bob Corker won approval Thursday of an amendment requiring the president to set forth U.S. objectives in Afghanistan and Pakistan and issue quarterly reports detailing whether those goals were being met.



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HOMEGROWN PLOTS Continued from Page B1

"You don't raise your children to be terrorists," said Aahkiyaah Cummings, his aunt.

"I don't know that guy that was arrested."

Just four years ago, Williams, now 28, told a parole board that prison was a wake-up call after his conviction on drug and weapons charges — drugs he said he sold because was making only \$150 a week in his job.

Onta Williams, 32, and Cromitie have also served prison sentences for drug convictions — Cromitie said in court he had used marijuana as recently as Wednesday. He said he was 55, though law enforcement records give his age as 44.

Payen, 27, did time for attempted assault — in 2002, he and others fired a BB gun out a vehicle's window. hitting two people in the head. He snatched purses from two women later the same day, said state Division of Parole spokeswoman Heather Groll. Payen appears to be a Haitian citizen, while the other three are Americans. The Williamses are not related.

York City New Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said he believed the defendants knew each other from their time behind bars. Relatives said Payen, David according to the criminal

Williams and Onta Williams were introduced to Islam in prison — a phenomenon present in prisons around the United States in recent years.

"The Onta I know wouldn't do something like this, but the new Onta, yeah," said Richard Williams, an uncle. "He wasn't raised this way. All this happened when he became a Muslim in prison."

He said his nephew, who loaded tractor-trailer trucks at a warehouse, had been shaken by his mother's death in 2006 and a separation from his wife. She has custody of his three children.

Payen was apparently staying in a rundown house that neighbors say was known as a home for parolees. Penniless and jobless, he had been fighting deportation and seeking custody of his 3-year-old son, said Hamin Rashada, an assistant imam at the Masjid al-Ikhlas mosque, where authorities say the informant first met Cromitie in June 2008.

The mosque is led by a state prison chaplain who converted to Islam years ago when he himself was an inmate, and has since become a respected community leader, offering support to other ex-convicts. Cromitie was burning with anger about the U.S. war in

Afghanistan, where his parents

had lived before he was born,

complaint. He told informant he was interested in jihad and "doing something to America" and was crestfallen that "the best target (the World Trade Center) was hit already," the complaint said.

In the same conversation, Cromitie said: "I hate those mother----, those f-----Jewish b---- I would like to get (destroy) a synagogue," according to the complaint.

In one conversation, Cromitie said he longed to shoot Jews in the head as they walked on the street near a synagogue, the informant said. another conversation with the informant, Onta Williams said that the U.S. military is killing Muslims "so if we kill them here with IEDs and Stingers, it is equal," according to court papers.

A woman who answered the phone at a Bronx listing for several of Cromitie's relatives said she didn't want to speak about him and hung up. No one answered the door at his Newburgh address.

complaint portrays Cromitie as the instigator of the conspiracy, telling REGIONAL B5 Friday, May 22, 2009



A New York Air National Guard C-5 Galaxy airplane lands at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y., Thursday, May 21, 2009. Three of the four men accused of a New York bombing plot appeared in a White Plains, N.Y., federal court Thursday. They also planned to shoot Stinger surface-to-air guided missiles at planes at the Air National Guard base in Newburgh, about 70 miles north of New York City.

Associated Press

he wanted to join Jaish-e-Mohammed, a Pakistani involved.

the informant last July that terrorist group with which the informant claimed to be

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Aruba—TODAY

Video shows 53 inmates escaping Mexican prison



Soldiers patrol outside Cieneguillas state prison in c, Mexico, Saturday, May 16, 2009. An armed gang freed more than 50 inmates from the prison in central Mexico on Saturday, including two dozen with ties to a powerful drug cartel, in a raid that took just five minutes, according to state Governor Amalia Garcia Medina.

JULIE WATSON
Associated Press Writer
MEXICO CITY (AP) —
Security camera footage shows that guards at a Mexican prison nonchalantly

stood by as 53 dangerous inmates walked out — and didn't rush into action with their guns drawn until well after their convoy of escape vehicles had disappeared

into the inky night.

Associated Press

The footage published by Reforma newspaper Thursday provides a rare inside look at lax security inside Mexico's prisons, a problem that makes prosecuting drug smugglers vastly more difficult. Interpol described the worst of the criminals. who escaped without firing a shot, as "a risk to the safety and security of citizens around the world." Interpol issued international security alert for 11 of the prisoners involved in the 2-minuteand-52-second prison break Saturday in Cieneguillas, in the northern state of Zacatecas. About a dozen of the prisoners were drug cartel suspects.

The video shows boredlooking guards watching TV before one of the prisoners opens an unlocked gate to his cell block and then orders a group of inmates to follow him into the guards' room. The guards step aside, making no moves to stop the escape, until they are shoved into the cell block by the inmates, some of them armed. Prisoners then cover the camera with a blanket. Meanwhile, a second security camera outside the prison filmed the arrival of gunmen in police cars with

flashing lights shortly before 5 a.m. Two guards run to open the front gate without questioning the drivers.

Eight gunmen wearing jackets with federal police insignia then enter the prison building and escort the inmates to the cars waiting in the prison parking lot. After they are gone, one guard with his hands bound by plastic luggage ties is seen walking calmly down an empty hall.

Only after the convoy is well out of the picture can guards be seen running toward the gate, some crouching with their guns drawn. Reforma added in a caption that the guards appeared to overacting for the cameras, "in Jim Carrey style."

The Lyon, France-based international police agency said Mexican authorities identified the 11 as the most dangerous of the 53 escapees. The alert — an "orange notice" — provides identifying details for each fugitive to all of Interpol's 187 member countries.

Mexico has struggled to reduce corruption and ineptitude in its justice system. President Felipe Calderon has acknowledged that jailed drug traffickers often operate from behind bars, and has extradited a record number of traffickers to serve time in more secure U.S. prisons.

Two prison guards are serving up to 19 years for aiding the escape of Mexico's mostwanted drug lord, alleged Sinaloa cartel leader Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman. He rode out of federal prison in Jalisco state in a laundry cart after bribing guards in 2001. And Otto Roberto Herrera Garcia, who helped turn Guatemala into a corridor for U.S.-bound cocaine, escaped in May 2005 from a jail in southern Mexico City. That jail's warden, his deputy and 10 others were arrested for allegedly accepting bribes to facilitate his freedom. He was arrested two years later in Bogota, Colombia.







via president seeks improved U.S. relations

CARLOS VALDEZ **Associated Press Writer**

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — President Evo Morales called for an about-face in relations with Washington on Thursday, saying past diplomatic spats can be overcome if the new U.S. government refrains from meddling in Bolivian affairs.

Morales met with U.S. envoy Thomas Shannon, Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, who said their talks were a "good start" toward improving ties.

Morales urged the U.S. not to interfere in Bolivian domestic matters, as he often claims it does, and said the nations must treat each other with "mutual respect." His government has expressed hope for improved ties under President Barack Obama, although Morales last month said he still believes Washington is conspiring against him. The leftist leader, a close ally of Venezuela and Cuba, also said U.S. aid should go to his government rather than to the private groups he claims are working to oust him.

U.S.-Bolivian relations frayed last year when Morales expelled the U.S. ambassador to La Paz, claiming the diplomat had conspired with his opponents to incite violence. He also

suspended cooperation with Drug Enforcement Administration agents, accusing them of espionage and funding "criminal groups" trying to undermine his government.

U.S. officials denied the charges, and former President George W. Bush's administration booted Bolivia's envoy to Washington, suspended trade preferences and added Bolivia to its antinarcotics blacklist.

Though little concrete progress was made after two days of meetings, talks helped reset the tone to pursue a new relationship, officials on both sides said.

Bolivia will not welcome the DEA in its territory, but it does acknowledge the anti-drug fight as a shared responsibility, Presidential Minister Juan Ramon Quintana said after meeting with Shannon later Thursday.

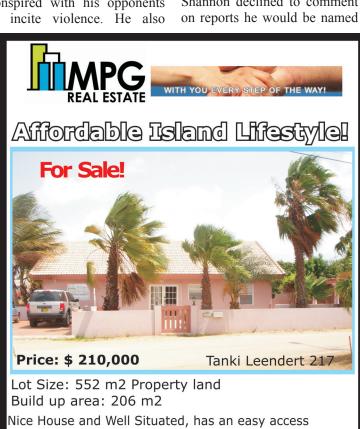
Shannon acknowledged that persisting differences require "creative diplomacy," but said the U.S. hopes "to have relations of equality with all the countries of Latin America."

"We've found the Bolivian government very willing and deeply interested in building a new stage in relations," he said. Shannon declined to comment



the next U.S. Ambassador to with the American president released an official statement Brazil, saying the decision rests

and the White House has not on the appointment.



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Catholic Church shamed by Irish abuse repo

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press Writer

DUBLIN (AP) — After a nine-year investigation, a commission published damning report Wednesday on decades of rapes, humiliation and beatings at Catholic Church-run reform schools for Ireland's castaway children.

The 2,600-page report painted the most detailed and damning portrait yet of church-administered abuse in a country grown weary of revelations about child molestation by priests.

The investigation of the taxsupported schools uncovered previously secret Vatican records that demonstrated church knowledge pedophiles in their ranks all the way back to the 1930s.

Wednesday's five-volume report on the probe — which was resisted by Catholic religious orders — concluded that church officials shielded their orders' pedophiles from arrest amid a culture of selfserving secrecy.

"A climate of fear, created pervasive, excessive arbitrary punishment, permeated most of the institutions and all those run for boys. Children lived with the daily terror of not knowing where the next beating was coming from," Ireland's Commission to Inquire Into Child Abuse concluded.

Victims of the abuse, who are now in their 50s to 80s, lobbied long and hard for an official investigation. They say that for all its incredible detail, the report doesn't nail down what really matters the names of their abusers.

"I do genuinely believe that it would have been a further step towards our healing if our abusers had been named and shamed," said Christine Buckley, 62, who spent the first 18 years of her life in a Dublin orphanage where children were forced to



A journalist takes notes beside the 'Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse' report in Dublin, Ireland, May, 20, 2009. A fiercely debated, nine-year investigation into Ireland's Roman Catholic-run institutions says priests and nuns terrorized thousands of boys and girls in workhouse-style schools for decades and government inspectors failed to stop the chronic beatings, rapes and humiliation.

manufacture rosaries — and were humiliated, beaten and raped whether they achieved their quota or not.

Catholic religious orders that ran more than 50 workhouse-style reform schools from the late 19th century until the mid-1990s offered public words of apology, shame and regret Wednesday. But when questioned, their leaders indicated they would continue to protect the identities of clergy accused of abuse men and women who were never reported to police, and were instead permitted to change jobs and keep harming children.

The Christian Brothers, which ran several boys' institutions deemed to have harbored serial child molesters and sadists on their staff, insisted it had cooperated fully with the probe. The order successfully sued the commission in 2004 to keep the identities of all of its members, dead or alive, unnamed in the report. No real names, whether of victims or perpetrators, appear in the final document.

The Christian Brothers' leader in Ireland, Brother Kevin Mullan, said the organization had been right to keep names secret because "perhaps we had doubts about some of the allegations."

"But on the other hand, I'd have to say that at this stage, we have no interest in protecting people who were perpetrators of abuse," Mullan said, vowing to "cooperate fully with any investigation or any civil authority seeking to explore those matters."

Buckley, who said she was abused at an orphanage run by the Sisters of Mercy, which ran several refuges for girls where the report documented chronic brutality, said the religious orders for years branded the victims as money-seeking liars — and were incapable of admitting their guilt today.

She criticized Mullan for suggesting that "today, having read the report, he doesn't mind if the abusers are named and shamed. Isn't that a little

bit late for us?"

The report found molestation and rape were "endemic" in boys' facilities, chiefly run by the Christian Brothers order, and supervisors pursued policies that increased the danger. Girls supervised by orders of nuns, chiefly the Sisters of Mercy, suffered much less sexual abuse but frequent assaults and humiliation designed to make them feel worthless.

Associated Press

"In some schools a high level of ritualized beating was routine. ... Girls were struck with implements designed to maximize pain and were struck on all parts of the body," the report said. "Personal and family denigration was widespread."

Ireland's myriad religious orders, much like their mother church, have been devastated by 15 years of scandals involving past cover-ups of abusers in their ranks.

The Christian Brothers have withdrawn from running several schools that still bear their name and the order has

had few recruits in Ireland in the past two decades. Other orders are down to a handful of members, and their bases are closer to nursing homes than active missions.

Aruba TODAY

"Most of these orders will literally die out in Ireland within the next generation or so," said Michael Kelly, editor of the Irish Catholic newspaper in Dublin. "Many of them are already in windup mode. They lack the confidence even to seek new vocations (recruits), due to the stigma associated with their members' shocking, scandalous behavior."

The Irish government, which in 1999 apologized for its role in permitting decades of abuse and established the commission to nail down the full truth of the matter, has tried to use money to bring closure to the victims.

Agovernment-appointedpanel has paid 12,000 survivors of the schools, orphanages and other church-run residences an average of €65,000 (\$90,000) each — on condition they surrender their right to sue either the church or state. About 2,000 more claims are pending. Irish Catholic leaders cut a controversial deal with the government in 2001 that capped the church's contribution at €128 million (\$175 million) — a fraction of the final cost.

Some victims emphasized, even as they began thumbing through the report, that nothing — not even criminal convictions of their longago tormentors — will ever put right their psychological wounds and make their nightmares go away.

Tom Sweeney, who spent five years in two Christian Brothers-run institutions where he was placed for truancy, says he suffered sexual abuse and beatings. He also has bitter memories about more everyday humiliations — such as being forced to wrap his urine-stained sheets around his neck and parade in front of other children when he'd wet his bed.

"It's something you'll never forget, the way you lived in these industrial schools," he said.



KEEP ARUBA CLEAN



Zimbabwe premier says foreign reporters allowed

ANGUS SHAW Associated Press Writer

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai says foreign journalists are free to report in the troubled southern African nation where many have previously been banned and others arrested and harassed.

The veteran opposition leader who formed a coalition with longtime President Robert Mugabe in February said Thursday that continuing violations of the powersharing deal threaten the unity government, but insisted that progress has been made.

Tsvangirai deplored recent arrests of independent

journalists and lawyers and called for a "new culture of respect."

He said a new state media commission would be formed to "facilitate the opening up of media space."

Stringent licensing of local and foreign journalists that effectively banned most foreign news organizations from entering the country had ceased to apply under the coalition agreement, he said. Journalists and media organization no longer are legally obliged to apply for accreditation until a new media commission is in place, Tsvangirai said.

Some organizations such as the BBC were banned from

entering the country while others have been deterred by licensing fees in the tens of the thousands of U.S. dollars. Some journalists entered and worked unofficially.

"There's no reason why these news agencies and groups should not be in the country," Tsvangirai said.

In another step forward, he said the coalition partners have agreed on how to share the posts of provincial governors and civil servants to head ministries, significant sticking points that had paralyzed the unity government.

However, regional leaders still will be asked to mediate the deadlock over two appointments seen as vital



Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, centre, addresses a press conference, in Harare, Thursday, May, 21, 2009. Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai says Zimbabwe's powersharing government has reached agreement on key appointments, ending a dispute that paralyzed the new administration. The former opposition leader said Thursday that a clash over the appointments of provincial governors and ambassadors have been resolved with President Robert Mugabe.

Associated Press

WHO: JAPAN - SAN MARINO Continued from Page B1

Japan's child mortality rates are also among the world's lowest, according to statistics published Thursday by the World Health Organization. For every 1,000 babies of both sexes born in

Japan, 996 will make it past their fifth birthday
— a key indicator of the health of a nation. Most
European countries fare equally well on child
mortality, while the United States limps behind
both in child mortality and life expectancy.

The tiny nation of San Marino, which is surrounded by Italy, has the world's lowest child mortality and boasts the longest average life span for men anywhere, at 81 years.

Children in the West African country of Sierra Leone and Afghanistan are at the other end of the scale. About a quarter will die before the age of five, and overall life expectancy is short.

Men in Sierra Leone live on average just 39 years, while women live to 43. In Afghanistan both sexes fare badly, with men and women living to 41 and 42, respectively.

The figures for 2007 are the latest available. The data showed that some countries have made remarkable progress in increasing life expectancy since 1990—partly by ending wars, partly through successful health initiatives, and child mortality rates have been key.

"The decline in the death toll of children under five illustrates what can be achieved," said WHO's director of statistics, Ties Boerma.

The increased use of insecticide-treated mosquito nets for malaria, oral rehydration therapy for diarrhea, better access to vaccines and improved water and sanitation in developing countries are proving particularly effective, he said.

"The signs are really encouraging for many countries, and they weren't encouraging in the 1990s," said WHO's director of statistics, Ties Boerma.

Some 9 million children under 5 years old died in 2007, compared to 12.5 million in 1990.

Eritrea in East Africa increased its average life expectancy during that period by 33 years to 61 for men, and by 12 years to 65 for women. On the other side of the continent, in Liberia, the figure for men jumped 29 years to 54, and rose 13 years to 58 for women. Angola, Bangladesh, Maldives, Niger and East Timor also increased their average life expectancies for both men and women by full 10 years.

In the United States, life expectancy was on the rise for both sexes, but not so dramatically: up to 76 from 72 years for men, and to 81 from 79 for women.

The U.S., which spends the highest amount of money per person on health care — \$6,719, also still lags on child mortality compared to other advanced nations. About eight in 1,000 children will die before the age of 5 — an improvement from 11 per 1,000 in 1990 but still twice as many as in Japan.

Other countries, meanwhile, showed a sharp decline since that time, especially in Africa, where AIDS and weak health systems take a heavy toll.

In Zimbabwe, a yearslong economic crisis and rampant inflation have created serious shortages of food and medicine and forced medical workers to flee the country. Those factors are among the reasons that women's life expectancy fell by 19 years to 44 and the men's average fell 12 years to 45.

The southern African nation of Lesotho recorded a 16-year drop for both men and women to 43 and 47 respectively. In the nearby kingdom of Swaziland, women live to 49 year on average, a drop of 14 years, while men's life expectancy declined by 12 years to 47.

Botswana, Congo, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia also reported significant drops in life expectancy for both sexes.

to Zimbabwe's economic recovery and restoring the rule of law. Mugabe had unilaterally reappointed central bank governor Gideon Gono and attorney general Johannes Tomana, in what Tsvangirai's party claims is a violation of the unity government agreement.

Gono, who has held the position for a number of years, is blamed for the economic collapse by printing Zimbabwe dollars until they were worthless and raiding hundreds of millions of dollars from foreign currency accounts belonging to international aid groups and businesses.

Tomana has ignored the ruling of the regional court of the Southern African Development Community to support continued statesponsored seizures the few remaining whiteowned commercial farms in Zimbabwe. The seizures brought about the collapse the agriculture-based economy and left the country dependent on international food handouts.

Tsvangirai singled out the continuing invasions of white-owned farms, blamed on militants and officials of Mugabe's party, as one of the violations threatening the unity government.

Western donors, led by the United States and Britain, have refused to provide aid to support the unity government,

saying they want to see Mugabe's commitment to the rule of law and ensure that aid reaches the people in need.

Mugabe justified the land seizures, saying he was turning it over to landless peasants. Instead, most farms have gone to army generals, Cabinet minister, relatives and cronies.

Tsvangirai cited the appointment of 10 provincial governors as progress in the government. The positions will be divided between the parties and five vacant ambassadorial posts will be filled by his Movement for Democratic Change and a smaller coalition partner.

Mugabe will also allow opposition lawmaker Roy Bennett to be sworn in as deputy agriculture minister, he said.

All previous appointments under Mugabe's government, many open loyalists to the man who has ruled since independence in 1980, remain in their jobs on the strength of experience. That includes George Charamba, a Mugabe loyalist and harsh critic of Western media, who stays on as secretary for information. But Tsvangirai warned that

civil servants showing party allegiance could be fired.

"We are coming through a history of political affiliation by individuals. From today, it must be a thing of the past," Tsvangirai said.

Friday, May 22, 2009 SPORTS

4rubu TODAY

No. 1 Bears' fan Obama shifts to Steelers for day

By Julie Pace, **Associated Press Writer**

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama may be a Chicago Bears fan at heart. But at least on Thursday, the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers were his football favorites.

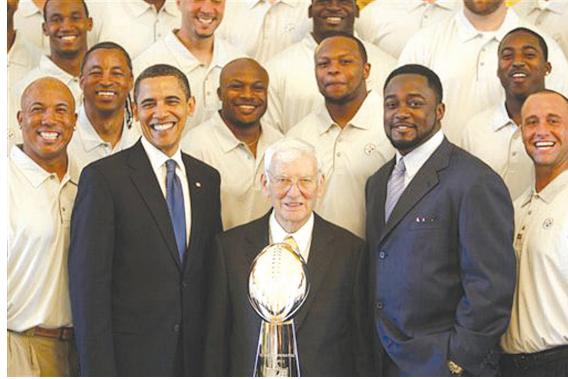
The president celebrated the Steelers' title at a White House ceremony.

"It's no secret that I was pulling for the Steelers during the Super Bowl," Obama said. "That's part of the reason why this is so much fun for me."

The president and the players also spent time meeting with wounded U.S. service members and assembling care packages for troops serving overseas.

The Steelers are "generous with their time for charity and for their communities,' Obama said.

Joining the president on afternoon the sunny



From left, Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Hines Wards, President Barack Obama, Steelers Chairman President Dan Rooney, Steelers Coach Mike Tomlin, and members of the Steelers, pose with the Vince Lombardi Trophy in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Thursday, May 21, 2009.

Associated Presss

the White House lawn Pennsylvania's were two Democratic senators, Bob with Agriculture Secretary Casey and Arlen Specter, along Tom Vilsack, whom Obama

called "a maniacal Pittsburgh Steeler fan."

During the presidential election, Steelers owner Dan Rooney, a lifelong Republican, campaigned for Obama in Pennsylvania, a key battleground state.

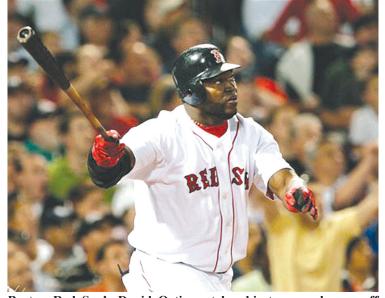
In March, Obama named Rooney U.S. ambassador to Ireland.

One Steelers' star didn't make the trip to Washington linebacker James Harrison.

Harrison skipped out on the traditional ceremony, just as he did when the Steelers were honored by President George W. Bush at the White House in June 2006.

Harrison's fear of flying may have played a role in his decision, though Harrison joked that the White House isn't in one of Washington's safer areas.

"It's not a good neighborhood over there," Harrison said. "It's a bad neighborhood."



Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz watches his two-run homer off Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Brett Cecil in the fifth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston on Wednesday, May 20,

BOSTON (AP) — David Ortiz broke a career-high 149 at-bat homerless drought and Brad Penny pitched his best game of the season as the Boston Red Sox beat the Toronto Blue Jays 8-3 in the American League on Wednesday.

Jason Varitek, Jason Bay and Mike Lowell also homered in the six-run fifth inning off rookie left-hander Brett Cecil

Associated Press

(2-1), but Ortiz's shot just to the left of straightaway center drew the loudest roar from fans who'd waited since his last homer on Sept. 22.

Penny (4-1) went 6 2-3 innings allowing two runs.

Boston center fielder Jacoby

AL Roundup

Ortiz ends homerless drought **Red Sox win 8-3**

record with 12 putouts by an outfielder in a nine-inning game. The mark was set by Earl Clark of the Boston Braves in 1929, and also matched by Lyman Bostock of the Minnesota Twins in 1977, according to Elias Sports Bureau.

Yankees 11, Orioles 4

At New York, Nick Swisher hit the first of three consecutive homers that sent Phil Hughes and New York to its eighth straight victory, its longest winning streak since last July. Robinson Cano and Melky Cabrera also hit solo shots to right field in the second inning against starter Jeremy Guthrie (3-4) — all with two strikes. Cano had three hits and three RBIs. Hughes (2-2) struck

Ellsbury tied a major league out a career-high nine in five in four straight starts, finishing innings.

> Baltimore, which hadn't homered in four games, saw Ty Wigginton and Adam Jones hit over the wall.

Tigers 5, Rangers 3

At Detroit, Justin Verlander allowed three hits in six innings and Detroit, despite hitting into a triple play, won its fifth straight.

Gerald Laird lined into the triple play, Texas' first since 2002, in the fourth.

Wilkin Ramirez, making his major league debut, broke a 1-1 tie with a homer in the sixth inning. Verlander (6-3) gave up one run to improve to 4-0 with a 1.02 ERA in his last five starts. He fell short of becoming the first Tigers pitcher to strike out 10 or more

with eight.

Matt Harrison (4-3) took the loss.

Athletics 7, Rays 6

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Brett Anderson pitched into the seventh inning to pick up his first major league win in his seventh career start, and Orlando Cabrera had two RBIs.

Anderson (1-4) gave up four runs — two earned — and four hits over six-plus innings.

In other AL games it was, N.Y. Yankees 11, Baltimore 4; Detroit 5, Texas 3; Oakland 7, Tampa Bay 6; Boston 8, Toronto 3; Cleveland 6, Kansas City 5; Chicago White Sox 7, Minnesota 4; and Seattle 1, L.A. Angels $0.\Box$



Major Baseball League commissioner Bud Selig speaks during a press conference, Thursday May 21, 2009 in New York. during a press conference, Thursday May 21, 2009 in New York. While Major League Baseball's attendance is down 6.4 percent from a year ago and 20 of 30 teams have experienced drops, commissioner Bud Selig is pleased with how the sport is surviving a season of recession.

Associated Press

Riding the recession: MLB pleased despite drop

RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — While Major League Baseball's attendance is down 6.4 percent from a year ago and 20 of 30 teams have experienced drops, commissioner Bud Selig is pleased with how the it is surviving a season of recession. "The clubs are very aggressive now in the way they're reaching out. I actually complimented them today at the end of the meeting," he said on Thursday after the team owners' quarterly gathering. "You've got some teams in economic markets that have really, really been hurt."

The 30 teams averaged 28,661 through Wednesday, down from 30,636 through May 20 last year. And Selig said per capita spending on tickets combined with concessions had been "quite a bit reduced, there's no question about it." Moving to new stadiums with smaller capacities, the New York Mets saw average attendance fall 22 percent and the Yankees saw theirs decrease 14 percent.

Continued on Next Page

Magic stun LeBron, Cavaliers 107-106

TOM WITHERS AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND(AP)—Dwight Howard scored 30 points and Rashard Lewis added 22 as the Orlando Magic rallied from a 15-point halftime deficit to hand LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers their first loss of the postseason, 107-106 on Wednesday in the Eastern Conference finals opener.

James finished with 49 points, eight assists and six rebounds, but the league Most Valuable player walked off the floor with a slight limp after Cleveland's stunning loss — just its third in 46 home games.

Lewis made a 3-pointer with 14.7 seconds left and the Magic, who dethroned the champion Boston Celtics in the previous round, survived two shots by Cleveland in the final seconds. Mo Williams missed a catch-and-shoot jumper off a jump ball as the horn sounded and the Cavs fell to 8-1 in the postseason.

"It's a big victory," said Howard, who broke one of the shot clocks with a dunk in the opening minutes. "We kept fighting the whole game. We kept believing we could win." Game 2 is Friday night at Quicken Loans Arena, which fell eerily silent after the Magic's win.

As fans headed to the exits, they turned to observe James still on the floor and bent over in obvious pain. He seemed to be bothered by cramps in the fourth quarter and was tended to by Cleveland's training staff before slowly making his way to the locker room.

"I'm not hurt," said James, who felt the long layoff — the Cavs hadn't played since May 11 — may have contributed to the cramping.

The Cavaliers lost their grip on the game with a stagnant third quarter that carried into the fourth. Also, the Magic shot 55 percent from the floor — 59 percent in the second half — against the league's top defensive team.

"That's unacceptable," James said. "We should have lost." Orlando, which won two games and lost one against Cleveland in the regular season, took its first lead at 85-84 with 10:06 left when Anthony Johnson hit a 3-pointer from the left corner. The bucket seemed to suck the air out of the raucous



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) grimaces as he walks off the floor following Cleveland's 107-106 loss to the Orlando Magic in Game 1 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals Wednesday, May 20, 2009, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

building and Cavs coach Mike Brown quickly called a timeout to stop the Magic's run and get James back in.

The Magic, though, kept making big shots with Lewis hitting a jumper with 31.6 seconds left to give Orlando a 104-103 lead.

James then drove and scored on a runner while drawing a sixth foul on Howard, who added 13 rebounds. James completed the three-point play for a 106-104 lead but Lewis came down and buried his 3-pointer over a closing Anderson Varejao.

On Cleveland's last possession, Delonte West missed an open 3 pointer, but the Cavs were able to force a jump ball. James tipped it behind him to Williams, but his last-second prayer hit the back of the rim

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Florida Marlins' Ross Gload (7) scores an eighth-inning run on a single hit by Wes Helms, as he beat the throw to Arizona Diamondbacks catcher Chris Snyder during Game 1 of a baseball doubleheader in Miami, Wednesday, May 20, 2009. The Marlins won 8-6.

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Dan Uggla homered and drove in four runs to help the Florida Marlins beat Arizona 8-6 on Wednesday in the first game of a doubleheader overshadowed by the death of the wife of Diamondbacks

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start from

pitcher Scott Schoeneweis. In Arizona, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office said deputies found the body of 39-year-old Gabrielle Dawn Schoeneweis on the floor of

the master bedroom in the

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NL Roundup

Uggla leads Marlins past heavy-hearted D-backs 8-6

team to return to Phoenix. Jorge Cantu, Cody Ross and Wes Helms also drove in runs for the Marlins while pitcher Chris Volstad (3-3) struck out a career-high nine and won for the first time since April 14.

Doug Davis (2-6) was the loser. Chad Tracy and Chris Snyder homered for Arizona.

Reds 5, Phillies 1

At Cincinnati, Aaron Harang (4-4) limited the National League's highest-scoring lineup to a solo homer, and Brandon Phillips drove in three runs to help Cincinnati snap a four-game losing streak and end Philadelphia's winning streak at five.

Philadelphia averages 5.7 runs per game, the best in the league, but managed only Raul Ibanez's 14th homer in Harang's seven innings.

Jamie Moyer (3-4) remained winless in four May starts.

Braves 12, Rockies 4

At Atlanta, Yunel Escobar hit a three-run homer in a nine-

noon. Schoeneweis left the run fourth inning as Atlanta ninth before Chicago stranded routed Colorado for the second straight game.

> The Rockies were tied 1-1 before the big inning. The Braves beat the Rockies 8-1 on Tuesday, then set a season high with the 12 runs on Wednesday. The nine-run inning was their biggest of the season.

> Atlanta leadoff hitter Omar Infante broke a bone in his left hand when hit by a pitch from Manny Corpas.

> Javier Vazquez (4-3) was the winner, and Jorge De La Rossa (0-4) took the loss.

Cardinals 2, Cubs 1

At St. Louis, Chris Carpenter returned to St. Louis' rotation with five scoreless innings, and Chris Duncan snapped a 1-for-21 slump with two hits and an RBI.

Carpenter (2-0) gave up three hits in his first outing since he strained a left rib-cage muscle on April 14 at Arizona.

Pinch-hitter Micah Hoffpauir had a two-out RBI single in the two on base.

Khalil Greene, relegated to a utility role while mired in a 2for-23 slump that has prompted anxiety issues, added a seventh-inning sacrifice fly as a pinch hitter.

At Houston, Wandy Rodriguez pitched seven strong innings, Miguel Tejada and Hunter Pence both had two RBIs, and Houston ended Milwaukee's winning streak at six.

Lance Berkman had an RBI double, and Rodriguez drove in his first run of the season for the Astros, who were caught batting out of order in the first inning.

In other NL games it was, Florida 8, Arizona 6st game; Pittsburgh 2, Washington 1; Atlanta 12, Colorado 4; Cincinnati 5, Philadelphia 1; Houston 6, Milwaukee 4; St. Louis 2, Chicago Cubs 1; Arizona at Florid and game; San Diego 2, San Francisco 1; and L.A. Dodgers 2, N.Y. Mets 1.

openers.

Selig said attendance should be viewed against the standards set in recent seasons. MLB had a record average of 32,785 two years ago, breaking a mark that had stood since 1993, and the average declined slightly last year to 32,539.

"It's early. We've horrendous weather," Selig

"I'm encouraged. Look, I read people saying, 'Oh, we're going to be down this, and we're going to be down that. And look at all the empty seats.' And then you compare to last year - remember, let me remind all of you, we're going against numbers that are stunning."

He said 15 or 16 teams held ticket prices even, six or seven cut them and the rest raised them. Many teams instituted discounted tickets and cheaper food prices, including \$1 hot dogs.

"Frankly, recession or not, this is the way it should be every year," he said.

MLB PLEASED

Continued from previous Page Other big drops experienced by Washington (34 percent), Detroit (30 percent), Atlanta (20 percent), Colorado (17 percent), San Diego (18 percent), Toronto (14 percent) and Houston (13

Just four teams have seen

double-digit percentage increases: American League champion Tampa Bay (32 percent), Florida (26 percent), Kansas City (16 percent) and World Series champion Philadelphia (10 percent).

In addition, the new Yankee Stadium and the Mets' Citi Field have both failed to sell out any game since their



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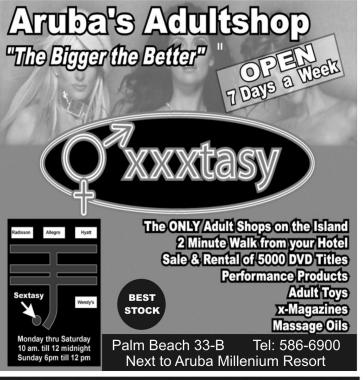
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Lula y Chávez analizarán "nuevo" diálogo entre EEUU y A. Latina

BRASILIA (Reuters) presidentes de Brasil analizarán Venezuela "nuevo momento del diálogo" entre Estados Unidos y América Latina la próxima semana, durante su sexto encuentro trimestral, dijo el jueves el portavoz brasileño, presidencial Marcelo Baumbach.

Los mandatarios se reunirán el martes en la ciudad brasileña de Salvador, donde también discutirán oportunidades de impulsar proyectos de integración regional y la marcha de la Unión de Suramericanas Naciones (Unasur). "En la reunión de Salvador se pretende evaluar las perspectivas de la próxima reunión de Unasur, así como el nuevo momento del diálogo ente Estados Unidos y América Latina y el Caribe", dijo Baumbach en conferencia de prensa.

Las relaciones de Latinoamérica con Estados Unidos se deterioraron durante la administración del ex presidente George W. Bush, pero dieron un giro tras la asunción de su sucesor, Barack Obama.

Durante la Cumbre de las Américas de Trinidad y Tobago de abril, Obama afirmó que las conversaciones "abrieron una nueva era en la asociación entre nuestras naciones".

El mandatario estadounidense también indicó que se habían visto "potenciales señales positivas en las relaciones de Estados Unidos, Cuba y Venezuela". Chávez, quien dice conducir una revolución socialista en su país, ha sido un ácido crítico de Washington y lanzó duros dardos contra Bush.

En la cumbre, realizada pocos días después de que Washington aliviara los viajes y remesas de cubanos a la isla de gobierno comunista, los mandatarios latinoamericanos insistieron en la necesidad de que ponga fin al embargo económico de más de cuatro

décadas contra Cuba.

El portavoz presidencial brasileño también dijo que Lula y Chávez analizarían las perspectivas del proceso de adhesión de Venezuela al Mercosur, la unión aduanera que tiene como socios plenos a Argentina, Brasil, Paraguay y Uruguay.

En particular, dijo Baumbach, los presidentes examinarán "la marcha de las conversaciones respecto al Programa de Liberalización Comercial", necesario para la adhesión.

El ingreso de Venezuela al Mercosur pende de la necesaria aprobacion de los poderes legislativos de Brasil y Paraguay. El portavoz dijo que los dos países están negociando diversos documentos para que lo firmen los presidentes en Salvador, en áreas que incluyen la cooperación fronteriza, transporte, servicios bancarios y política industrial, entre otros.



Foto de archivo del portavoz presidencial brasileño, Marcelo Baumbach, durante una conferencia de prensa en Brasilia, 4 abr 2007. Los presidentes de Brasil y Venezuela analizarán el 'nuevo momento del diálogo' entre Estados Unidos y América Latina la próxima semana, durante su sexto encuentro trimestral, dijo el jueves el portavoz presidencial brasileño, Marcelo Baumbach. REUTERS/Jamil Bittar (BRASIL)

Eliminan alerta por gripe en capital mexicana

MEXICO (AP) - El gobierno de la ciudad de México bajó a al mínimo el nivel de alerta por el brote de gripe porcina, debido a que hace una semana que no se registran nuevos casos de infectados. El alcalde de la ciudad Marcelo Ebrard dijo el jueves en rueda de prensa que el cambio significa que el riesgo de contagio es bajo, que la situación está bajo control y "podemos estar tranquilos".

Por lo tanto, las imágenes de cientos de personas con tapabocas en autos, aceras, restaurantes y cines, y que dieron la vuelta al mundo, quedarán atrás.

"Ya no hay justificación para eso", señaló Ebrard. "Ya pueden venir a la ciudad sin ningún riesgo". Las cifras oficiales indican que hasta el miércoles el número de fallecidos por la influenza A H1N1 en México era de 75 y los casos de contagiados alcanzó los 3.892.



Corte colombiana defiende su imparcialidad en tema reelección

BOGOTA (AP) - El presidente de la Corte Constitucional defendió el jueves la imparcialidad de esa instancia que deberá examinar la legalidad de una consulta popular que permitiría una segunda reelección consecutiva del mandatario Alvaro Uribe.

El presidente de la Corte Constitucional, magistrado Nilson Pinilla, salió al paso de las críticas de opositores al referéndum, como el ex mandatario Andrés Pastrana (1998-2002), quien dijo a medios locales que algunos de los jueces de esa corte son de "bolsillo" de Uribe y que, por tanto, se daba por descontado que avalarán la consulta. Los opositores al referéndum dicen que Uribe --reelegido en 2006 tras promover una primera reforma constitucional con la que consiguió su segundo mandato-- concentra demasiados poderes y que eso va contra la independencia de los poderes del estado.

Los nueve magistrados de la Corte Constitucional, máxima instancia para dirimir asuntos de la Carta Magna, son elegidos por el Senado de ternas de candidatos propuestas por el presidente de la República, la Corte Suprema y otra instancia judicial colombiana llamada el Consejo de Estado.

Con un período de magistratura de ocho años, esos magistrados coincidían algunos y otros no-

-dependiendo si se jubilaban o se retiraban-- con el período de gobierno de un jefe de estado. Pero con la reelección del 2006, en el organismo hay tres magistrados elegidos de ternas presentadas por Uribe.

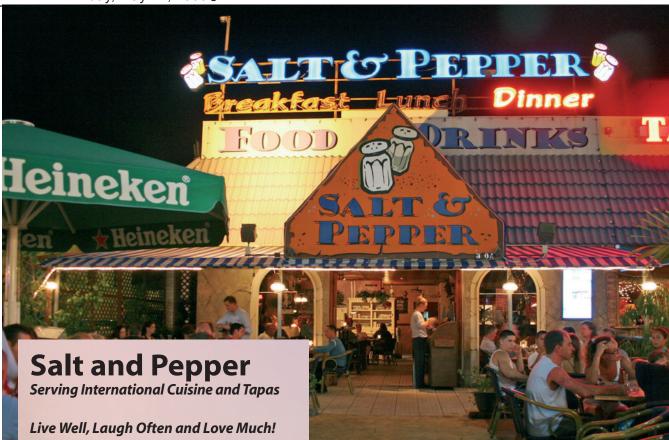
Además, los aliados del presidente son mayoría en el Senado y la Cámara de Representantes.

Pinilla descartó los señalamiento de Pastrana y se quejó diciendo que era "falta de oficio empezar a decir esa cosas". "Es mejor ocuparse de temas después de haberlos estudiado y no hacer descalificaciones, que son muy desafortunadas", dijo Pinilla a los reporteros tras un acto en el centro de la ciudad.

En la Corte Constitucional "no recibimos ninguna clase de presiones y la determinación que se tome (sobre el referéndum) será en derecho. De manera que quienes piensen que nos pueden presionar van a perder el tiempo", agregó el magistrado. El Senado, de 102 miembros, aprobó el martes el proyecto de ley para llamar a la consulta, pero como el texto del referéndum aprobado por los senadores fue diferente al ratificado por la Cámara de Representantes en 2008, ahora debe conciliarse un nuevo texto y ser votados por ambas cámaras. Si recibe el visto bueno del legislativo, el tema pasará a la Corte Constitucional.

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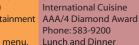
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